

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 4, 8, 12, and 14-18 are being cancelled.

No claims are being amended or added.

This amendment cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 5-7, 9, 10 and 13 are presently pending for further consideration.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 5-7 are allowed.

In the Office Action mailed June 9, 2003, claims 4, 8-10 and 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,521 to Iizuka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,159,193 to Shirashi et al. This rejection, to the extent that it may be applied to presently pending claims 9, 10 and 13, is traversed for at least the reasons given below.

Claim 9:

The Office Action asserts Iizuka describes a surface 115p (FIGS 42-43) whose radius of curvature in the sub scanning direction is varied along the main scanning direction. However, as described in column 23, lines 64-66 of Iizuka, the surface 115b has a rotational axis extending in the sub scanning direction. Therefore, its curvature in the sub scanning direction is uniform in the main scanning direction, and thus it does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 9. Since Shirashi does not rectify the above-mentioned deficiencies of Iizuka, claim 9 is believed to be patentable.

Claims 10 and 13:

The Office Action asserts that lizuka describes a surface 115b (FIGS. 42-43) whose radius of curvature in the main scanning direction is varied along the main scanning direction. However, as described in column 23, lines 64-66 of lizuka, the surface 115b has a rotational axis extending in the sub-scanning direction. Therefore, its curvature in the main scanning direction is uniform in the main scanning direction, and thus it does not disclose or suggest a radius of curvature in the main scanning direction that varies in the main scanning direction.

Further, although the Office Action also refers to Figure 21 of lizuka, this figure only discloses that the curvature is varied in the sub scanning direction, and its curvature in the main scanning direction appears to be zero throughout the whole area. Therefore, Figure 21 of lizuka is not particularly relevant to the presently pending claims under rejection.

Therefore, since Shiraishi does not rectify the above-mentioned deficiencies of lizuka, claims 10 and 13 are also believed to be patentable.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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